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LETTER DATED 11 AUGUST 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter addressed to you by Mr. Ibrahim M. Bishari, Secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, with an annexed report on the impact of the implementation of Security Council resolution 748 (1992) during the period from 15 April to 31 July 1992.

I should be grateful if you would have the letter and the appended report circulated as official documents of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ali Ahmed ELHOUDERI
Permanent Representative

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Annex

I wish to inform you about the damage caused to the Libyan people as a result of an as yet unproven charge against my country, namely, the halting of the arrival of medical supply orders for drugs, appliances, equipment and medical necessities, the ban on sending abroad sick patients who cannot be treated locally and the fact that it is impossible for specialists in the medical sciences to come to the Jamahiriya in order to treat difficult cases and carry out delicate surgical procedures. This is in addition to the economic impact of the aerial embargo, for agricultural and livestock production has sustained large-scale damage.

When the members of the Security Council voted on resolution 731 (1992), their vote was not against Libya but against terrorism. Since Libya has proved its renunciation of terrorism, as witnessed by its dealings with the United Kingdom Government with regard to the question of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), has handed over to France the file on the Palestinian citizen and has called for the establishment by you of a commission to ascertain whether camps or installations for training terrorist elements exist in the Jamahiriya or not, which confirms that Libya has responded to resolution 731 (1992), as affirmed by the resolutions of the Basic Popular Congresses, the Jamahiriya asks the United Nations Security Council to send a commission to ascertain the enormous damage caused by the embargo imposed on the Libyan people and to see at close hand what that people is suffering as a result of the sanctions imposed on it on the basis of a charge that is so far unproven.

1. The harsh and distressing sanctions that have been imposed on the Libyan people constitute a violation of international law and the United Nations Charter. This wrong to which the small and peace-loving Libyan people has been exposed without committing any offence lacks any moral or legal basis.

2. The mere suspicion of Libyans who have not been proved to have any connection with the Pan American aircraft incident and concerning whom no legal judgement has been handed down, cannot be justification for the imposition of these unjust and harsh sanctions. It is as though the accused were guilty before being convicted, which shows clearly the depth of the moral and legal crisis in which the international community is engulfed.

3. Those who induced the Security Council to impose the sanctions bear political, legal and moral responsibility for the tragedies to which the Libyan people is exposed, such as the deaths of children, old people and women, the decline of living standards, the slowing down of the development process and the imprisonment of a whole people, because all these dimensions relate directly to the essence of human rights.

4. History will bear witness to the atrocity of what is being committed in the name of the Security Council against an entire people.

We urgently call upon you to lift, or at least to alleviate, the unjust and unjustified sanctions imposed on the Libyan people, because of the extensive damage that they cause to the entire people and because they have no moral or legal basis.

The continuation of the sanctions after Libya's response to Security Council resolution 731 (1992) and the positive initiatives that it has taken with a view to resolving the issue is interpreted by the Arabs as a racist action aimed at them exclusively.

In conclusion, I transmit herewith a list of the damage resulting from Security Council resolution 748 (1992) for your information and for circulation to the members of the Security Council and the Members of the United Nations as an official document.

(Signed) Ibrahim M. BISHARI
Secretary of the People's Committee
for Foreign Liaison and International
Cooperation

Appendix

Impact of the implementation of Security Council resolution 748 (1992) during the period from 15 April to 31 July 1992

Since the beginning of its implementation on 15 April 1992, Security Council resolution 748 (1992) has caused damage to the Libyan Arab people in various aspects of human and economic life. This damage consists of the following:

I. Human impact

- Non-arrival of medical supply orders for essential drugs, appliances, equipment and medical requirements such as sera, vaccines, laboratory reagents and operating supplies. These orders total 156 at a value of $50 million.

- It has been impossible to send abroad 3,445 sick patients whom it is impossible to treat locally. These cases include heart disease, multiple embolisms, kidney transplants, bone-marrow transplants, neurosurgery and third-degree burns. These patients cannot be transported by land, which would mean for them a sure sentence of death within sight and hearing of their families.

- The difficulty of transporting the dead to and from the Jamahiriya. For example, the corpse of one citizen was carried from Switzerland to Tunisia, then back to Switzerland, from there to Malta and then to Tripoli, where the corpse arrived 10 days after death.

- Eighty specialists in various medical fields were unable to come to the Jamahiriya in order to provide treatment for some difficult cases, perform delicate surgery and participate in medical symposiums, lectures, examinations and consultations.

- Five hundred and three medical and paramedical personnel under contract to work in the various health facilities were unable to come, while approximately 150 medical and paramedical personnel under contract to work in the various health facilities are submitting their resignation each month.

- There has been a stoppage of services for the maintenance of electromechanical medical equipment used in health facilities as a result of non-arrival of spare parts to a value of approximately US$ 10 million.

- During the period from 15 April to 31 July 1992, the aerial embargo caused the death of 150 serious and urgent cases while they were being transported by land routes to airports in Egypt and Tunisia because it was impossible to treat them locally. The delay in the

arrival of rush orders caused serious aggravation of illness and death in the case of 100 infants at hospitals in the Jamahiriya. In addition, the non-availability of the necessary spare parts for the maintenance of electromagnetic medical equipment, the delay in the arrival of essential operating supplies and the fact that some medical specialists and consultants were unable to come to the Jamahiriya has resulted in the deaths in childbirth of 20 Libyan women.

- In past years, Libyan pilgrims totalled an annual average of 30,000, while this year the total was approximately 3,500 only. The average number of Libyan Arabs performing the rights of the Umrah at the appropriate time was 25,000, but this number will not be able to perform the rite this season.

- The use of land routes for travel to and from the Jamahiriya led to an increase in traffic accidents during the past four months over the figure for the same period in 1991. Traffic accidents increased from 2,401 in 1991 to 3,788 during the past four months of 1992. The number of deaths resulting from such accidents rose from 389 to 528, an increase of approximately 35 per cent.

- International organizations were unable to fulfil their obligations vis-à-vis the Jamahiriya, since the joint programme to study preventive and training programmes with the World Health Organization was not implemented.

- Four meetings with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and the Agricultural Development Fund relating to the screw-worm fly programme in the Jamahiriya. Four experts of the screw-worm fly programme left the Jamahiriya before the end of the programme.

II. Economic impact

As a result of the imposition of the aerial embargo on the Jamahiriya, agricultural and livestock production suffered widespread damage. Other economic activities were also affected by the embargo. The resultant loss amounts to US$ 2,157 million, broken down as follows:

(a) Impact of the aerial embargo on food production

- $175 million worth of dairy products and derivatives, including $60 million worth of milk and infant foods, was not delivered.

- Exports of vegetables, fruits and fresh fish were affected, which caused a decline of $60 million in export earnings.

- The loss in agricultural and livestock production was estimated at $1,062,803,122.

This loss reflects the non-production of:

- 25,000 tons of mutton, lamb and goat-meat;

- 1,750 tons of beef;

- 5,500 tons of chicken;

- 6 million litres of milk;

- 250 million eggs for human consumption.

This resulted from the halting of supplies of veterinary drugs and sera by air from certain European States such as France, Switzerland, Germany and the United Kingdom to protect the livestock from epidemic and communicable diseases, since the proportion of deaths in unimmunized newborn animals came to 90 per cent.

- Loss of 208 million eggs for human consumption and 7,800 tons of chicken that would have been produced by importing 4.3 million eggs for incubation, 204,000 turkey chicks and 1.6 million 16-week-old chicks under contracts concluded with European countries; delivery was prevented by the aerial embargo.

- The competent authorities have been unable to import $20 million worth of the following production inputs needed for cultivation of existing areas or reclamation of land within the framework of food self-sufficiency:

- 3,000 tons of trace elements from the English company Fisons. Production of wheat and barley fell by 30 per cent because of failure to apply this kind of fertilizer.

- 925 kilogrammes of hybrid seeds of various kinds of vegetables to be grown under cover in order to produce 96,000 tons to meet 80 per cent of the Jamahiriya's need for such vegetables to an estimated value of $158 million.

- 1.5 million fruit and banana seedlings, seeds and roots.

- 2,000 swarms of bees from Australia and 20,000 strips of Apistan from Switzerland for bees.

- The agreement concluded with the Netherlands Agropa Company for the export of 550 tons of tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplant and cantaloupes to a value of $850,000 was not implemented.

- The negative impact of the aerial embargo on agricultural and livestock production caused it to fall 40 per cent below the level before the adoption of the resolution.

(b) Impact of the aerial embargo on other economic activities

- The value of credits opened for the import by air of various foodstuffs, operating requirements, drugs and equipment required for the various economic activities totalled approximately $500 million, and these goods have not yet arrived owing to the aerial embargo.

- The value of non-petroleum exports fell by 44 per cent, representing a reduction of $234 million.

- The production process in many factories was affected as a result of the restrictions imposed on the import of chemicals and certain other cleaning materials needed by these factories.

- The delay in the arrival of spare parts needed by factories caused a delay in the production process and a loss of much time and effort.

- As a result of the cessation of air transport, transport was diverted to land routes, which caused a rise in the use of private and public vehicles and trucks. This increased the amount of damage to public roads. The increase was estimated at 61 per cent of the overall anticipated damage due to road use before the implementation of the aerial embargo. Accordingly, the required increase in funds for maintenance of the coastal road alone will amount to $15 million.

- As a result of the cessation of air travel, Libyan Arab Airlines lost direct receipts of $145 million.

- The rate of operation of Libyan Arab Airlines aircraft dropped 64 per cent from the previous figure, while the rate of domestic operation fell by 40 per cent, owing to linkage with international traffic.

- The reduction of Arab workers in the foreign offices of Libyan Arab Airlines and the laying-off of local workers in those offices gave rise to additional financial burdens resulting from workers' compensation in the amount of $2 million.

- The Libyan Arab Air Freight Company bears the costs of maintaining its aircraft at a rate of $10 million, without any return.

- The Libyan Arab Air Freight Company lost $6 million as a result of the halt of air traffic.

- The Libyan Arab Air Freight Company bears the cost of wages and salaries equivalent to $9.5 million, without any economic return.

- The Light Air Transport Company lost income estimated at $1.25 million as a result of being unable to obtain the necessary spare parts to operate its aircraft.

- The operation of airports was halted because of the cessation of air traffic, and this resulted in a loss of income amounting to $2 million.

- The General Board for Civil Aviation and Meteorology incurred costs of $8 million representing payment of wages and salaries to workers.

- The Socialist Airports Company incurred costs of $4 million in wages and salaries for workers, without any return.

- The Socialist Airports Company lost $4.5 million as the result of the halting of international air traffic.

- As a result of the halting of air traffic, the Maritime Transport Company incurred the following costs:

  Payment of expenses for rental and purchase of passenger vessels in the amount of $12 million, with no prospect of an economic return.

  Additional financial commitments as a result of the increase in demand for vessels and other equipment.

  The general freight traffic in ports was affected as a result of the increase in passenger services.

- The General Company for Posts and Cables and Wireless Communications sustained additional financial burdens in the amount of $250,000 as a result of the routing of mail through intermediate points.

- There was a delay ranging between 24 and 48 hours in the receipt of incoming mail and the forwarding of outgoing mail, and this affected the activities of the other sectors, including health, oil and banking.

- The non-arrival of spare parts gave rise to the interruption of internal communications, which had a direct effect on the provision of essential humanitarian services, such as hospital, first aid and civil defence services.

- The receipts of the General Company for Posts and Cable and Wireless Communications fell by $8 million as a result of the non-arrival of spare parts and lack of the necessary maintenance.

The Libyan Arab people is a small people, and its capacities are limited. However, at the same time, it needs the necessary capacities to defend its extensive territory. It has never attacked and will not attack anyone. Nevertheless, the embargo resolution, particularly the ban on the obtaining of spare parts, has paralysed the defensive capacity of the country entirely. The continuation of this situation will not serve any party except Zionism, which has ambitions in the region.